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EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL754020625US  
DATE OF DEPOSIT: July 19, 2001  
Attorney Reference Number 5673-55696  
Application Number 09/617,178

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Efstathiou et al.

Art Unit: 1656

Application No. 09/617,178

Filed: July 17, 2000

For: VIRAL PROTEIN BINDING COMPOSITIONS  
AND METHODS

Examiner: Alexander H. Spiegler

Date: July 19, 2001

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

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**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO PAPER NO. 6**

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office action, dated March 20, 2001, for which a three-month period for reply was set, making a response due on or before June 20, 2001. A petition for a one-month extension of time and payment of the required fee accompanies this response, making the response due on or before July 20, 2001. Please amend the application as follows:

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claim 21 without prejudice to renewal.

Please amend claims 17 and 20 without prejudice as follows:

Sub E2  
17. (Amended) A method of blocking binding of a chemokine to a receptor for the chemokine on the surface of a cell, comprising contacting the cell with a M3 protein, or a functional homologue thereof, thereby blocking the binding of the chemokine to the receptor.

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